

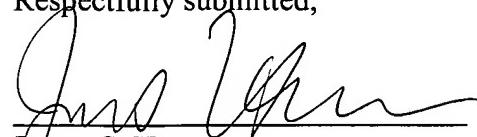
REMARKS

Claims 50-51, 54-55, 57-60 and 68-73 were rejected under 35U.S.C. 102b as being anticipated by US Pat. 5,301,129 to McKaughan et al. Claims 52-53, 56, 61-67 and 74-75 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitations of claims 51 and 52 have been incorporated in claim 50, and the limitations of claims 73 and 74 have been incorporated in claim 72. Claims 51, 52, 73 and 74 have therefore been cancelled. For this reason, claims 50 and 72 are now believed to be allowable. The remaining dependent claims 53-71 and 75 are believed to be allowable as well.

New claims 76-127 have been added to more completely cover the invention. These claims distinguish from McKaughan in that the beam of radiation either traces a spiral scan path or paths on the surface having lengths that are smaller than dimensions of the surface. This is not taught or suggested by McKaughan. McKaughan discloses a system for detecting surface anomalies on webs at high speed, such as at 60 mph (column 1, line 68), or 5,000 ft/minute (column 2, line 22). It appears that McKaughan is moving the web past the inspection station along a straight line at such speed. It therefore fails to teach the above limitations of the new claims. Furthermore, since McKaughan's system is specifically designed for such high speed inspection of industrial parts, such as rolls of metal sheets, there is no reason or motivation to modify his system to adopt a spiral or serpentine scan. Thus, claims 76-127 are believed to be allowable over McKaughan. The dependent claims add limitations that are not taught or suggested by McKaughan, such as those similar to claims 52-53, 56, 61-67 and 74-75. Claim 78 contains the limitation that "wherein the processing of the output with the first threshold and the analyzing of the output with a second threshold are performed independently of one another." This also is not taught or suggested by McKaughan. In McKaughan, the output processed using the first threshold (T_f) is further processed using the second threshold (T_i), which teaches away from the feature of claim 78.

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Respectfully submitted,



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